

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

sub c 1) (Currently Amended) A method of operating a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network, said method comprising the steps of:

a) — configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization wherein said access policy dictates a condition under which a particular service request is permissible to a user;

b) — receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user;

c) — based on said identity, said resource manager determining whether said service request violates said access policy;

d) — provided said service request is permissible, said resource manager determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available; and

e) — provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, said resource manager transmitting control signals to said network causing said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request.

2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of returning a failure message to said user when said service request violates said access policy.

3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of maintaining a record of activities of said user.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said ~~step (c) determining whether said service request violates said access policy~~ comprises the step of retrieving said record of activities of said user from a log database provided said access policy is dependent on user activities.

5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

communicating user identification information of said user to said server;

authenticating said user identification information; and

provided said user identification information is unauthenticated, denying said user access to resources of said network.

6. (Previously Amended) A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said plurality of types of consumer

electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices.

6 7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 6 wherein said ~~step (d) determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available~~ comprises the step of accessing a resource pool, wherein said resource pool contains information regarding availability of said hard resources.

8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said access policy is stored in a policy database accessible by said resource manager.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of managing resources within a network including a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- a) ~~configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization wherein said access policy dictates a condition under which a particular service request is permissible to a user;~~
- b) ~~receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user;~~

e) —based on said identity, said resource manager determining whether said service request violates said access policy;

d) —provided said service request is permissible, said resource manager determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available; and

e) —provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, said resource manager transmitting control signals to said network causing said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request.

10. (Original) A computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 9 wherein said method further comprises the step of returning a failure message if said service request violates said access policy.

11. (Original) A computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 9 wherein said method further comprises the step of maintaining a record of activities of said user.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said step (e) determining whether said service request violates said access policy comprises the step of retrieving said record of activities of said user from a log database provided said access policy is dependent on user activities.

13. (Original) A computer-usable medium as recited in Claim 12 wherein said method further comprises ~~the steps of:~~  
communicating user identification information of said user to said server;  
authenticating said user identification information; and  
provided said user identification information is unauthenticated, denying said user access to resources of said network.

14. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14 wherein said ~~step (d)~~ determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available comprises ~~the step of~~ accessing a resource pool, wherein said resource pool contains information regarding availability of said hard resources.

16. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said access policy is stored in a policy database accessible by said resource manager.

17. (Currently Amended) A home server coupled to control a network of different types of consumer electronic devices, said home server comprising:

a) — means for storing an access policy wherein said access policy dictates a condition under which a particular service request is permissible to a user;

b) — means for receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user;

c) — means for determining whether said service request violates said access policy based on said identity;

d) — means for determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available; and

e) — means for causing respective ones of said different types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request provided said service request is permissible and provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service request are available, ~~means for causing respective ones of said different types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request.~~

18. (Original) A home server as recited in Claim 17 further comprising means for returning a failure message when said service request violates said access policy.

19. (Original) A home server as recited in Claim 17 further comprising database means for maintaining a record of activities of said user.

20. (Original) A home server as recited in Claim 19 further comprising means for retrieving said record of activities of said user from database means provided said access policy is dependent on user activities.

21. (Original) A home server as recited in Claim 17 further comprising:  
means for communicating user identification information of said user to said server;  
means for authenticating said user identification information; and  
means for denying said user access to resources of said network provided said user identification information is unauthenticated.

22. (Previously Amended) A home server as recited in Claim 21 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said different types of consumer

electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said different types of consumer electronic devices.

23. (Currently Amended) A home server as recited in Claim 22 wherein said means ~~(d) for determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available~~ comprises means for accessing a resource pool that stores availability information of said hard resources.

24. (New) A method of operating a network comprising consumer electronics devices, comprising the acts of:

receiving a request from a user of the network, wherein the request comprises a request for output of a media content item without the user specifying a source providing the media content item to the network and without the user specifying an electronic device of the network for the output; and

outputting the media content item if the user is permitted to receive the media content item and if an electronic device of the network is available to output the media content item.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the network comprises a home network comprising consumer electronic devices.



26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the request comprises a request for the output at a particular location.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the media content item comprises audio and video.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the media content item comprises a first media content item, and further comprising the acts of:

receiving, during output of the first media content item, a second request from a second user of the network, wherein the second request comprises a request for output of a second media content item without the second user specifying a source providing the second media content item to the network and without the second user specifying an electronic device for the output; and

outputting, during output of the first media content item, the second media content item if the second user is permitted to receive the second media content item and if a second electronic device of the network is available to output the second media content item.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the network comprises a home network comprising consumer electronic devices.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising the act of using a single functional manager to receive the first and the second requests.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the request for output of the first media content item comprises a request that the first media content item be output at a first location, and wherein the request for output of the second media content item comprises a request that the second media content item be output at a second location.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the first and the second media content items each comprise audio and video.

33. (New) A resource manager for managing a network comprising consumer electronic devices, the resource manager being:

configured to receive, via a user interface, a request from a user of the network, wherein the request comprises a request for output of a media content item without the user specifying a source providing the media content item to the network and without the user specifying an electronic device of the network for the output; and

configured to output the media content item if the user is permitted to receive the media content item and if an electronic device of the network is available to output the media content item.

34. (New) The resource manager of claim 33, wherein the network comprises a home network comprising consumer electronic devices.

35. (New) The resource manager of claim 33, wherein the request comprises a request for the output at a particular location.

36. (New) The resource manager of claim 33, wherein the media content item comprises audio and video.

37. (New) The resource manager of claim 33, wherein the media content item comprises a first media content item, the manager further being:  
configured to receive, via the user interface and during output of the first media content item, a second request from a second user of the network, wherein the second request comprises a request for output of a second media content item without the second user specifying a source providing the second media content item to the network and without the second user specifying an electronic device for the output; and

configured to output, during output of the first media content item, the second media content item if the second user is permitted to receive the second media content item and if a second electronic device of the network is available to output the second media content item.

38. (New) The resource manager of claim 37, wherein the network comprises a home network comprising consumer electronic devices.

39. (New) The resource manager of claim 37, wherein the request for output of the first media content item comprises a request that the first media content item be output at a first location, and wherein the request for output of the second media content item comprises a request that the second media content item be output at a second location.

40. (New) The resource manager of claim 38, wherein the first and the second media content items each comprise audio and video.

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